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Bulgarian Magazine Links CIA to Attack on Pope

SOFIA, Bulgaria, Dec. 14 (UPI)—A Bulgarian magazine turned the tables on the West, saying the Central Intelligence Agency and not Bulgaria was behind the May 1981 assassination attempt on Pope John Paul II.

Pogled magazine said yesterday Turkish terrorist Mehmet Ali Agca, who is serving a life sentence for the shooting, "was in seven Western European NATO member countries" before the shooting. It said the seven nations harbor "a large network of CIA agents" who work in right-wing extremist organizations.

"This is where he [Agca] found refuge, these are the circles the terrorist Agca moved in, from which he received money and instructions in the course of many a month before doing the terrorist act in the square in Rome," Pogled said.

The weekly magazine joined other Bulgarian news media in rejecting allegations of any Bulgarian involvement in criminal actions in Italy.

The allegations against Bulgaria stem from three separate investigations. The magistrates leading the investigations have been leaking some of their findings to Italian and foreign reporters.